

The Office has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372:

Group I, claims 1-27 drawn to bus architecture comprising primary and secondary buses.

Group II, claim 28 and 29, drawn to an apparatus for determining device availability in a bus architecture.

Group III, claims 30-33 and 39, drawn to a packet based arbitration method and apparatus for a computer bus.

Group IV, claims 34-38, drawn to a data request matching apparatus for matching the identity of a requesting device with data retrieved from a storage device.

In response, Applicants elect the invention defined as Group III for prosecution in the application. This group is represented by claims 30-33 and 39, and also by claims 35-38 which have each been amended to depend from claim 30.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Potomac Patent Group PLLC

Date:

April 20, 2009

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